

the newham mag

ISSUE 143
19 April 2008



Page 10
End
of the
road



Page 24
World's
greatest
pole-vaulter

> **Page 20** Bright sparks:
Carnival lights up Torch Relay



Do you often drive your children to and from school? Do you get stuck in traffic on the way? When you eventually arrive, do you then have problems finding somewhere safe to park?



Why not walk and save yourself the hassle, increase the health and fitness of you and your children and reduce the pollution and congestion around your school and neighbourhood?

Walk on Wednesdays (WoW), a scheme already adopted by 42 schools in the borough, encourages pupils and parents to walk to and from school every Wednesday in every week of the school year.

WoW is simple, flexible and most of all fun.

For schools to be a part of the scheme they need to have a school travel plan in place, but otherwise it is completely FREE!

If you're a student, parent or school and want to get involved in this scheme, contact Newham's School Travel Plan Advisor on 020 8430 2000 for more information.



the newham mag



If you missed the Torch Relay you can catch up on all the day's activities in our picture special. We uncover the legend of St George and take a look at councillor led community projects making a difference in your area.

Part time adult courses

begin this week and we highlight a more unusual vocation in Working Lives to inspire you to check out what's on offer.

Anita



On the cover:
Carnival spirit
at the Torch Relay.

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Look out for the next issue from 3 May

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IN BRIEF //

Newham builds schools for the future

Newham Learning Partnership (NLP) has been selected by the council to deliver a £200 million Building Schools for the Future programme.

The partnership, led by Laing O'Rourke Portfolio Projects, was chosen after a rigorous selection process that has taken place over the past 20 months in line with European Union rules.

The programme will involve rebuilding four schools, remodelling and refurbishing nine schools and equipping all secondary schools with state of the art ICT equipment installed and supported by ICT partner RM.

Work will begin immediately with the clearing of the site of the former Cumberland School in Canning Town, which will become the location of the new Rokeby School. Little Ilford, Lister, Rokeby and Stratford schools will be rebuilt while Brampton Manor, Eastlea, Forest Gate, Langdon, Plashet, Royal Docks, St Angela's, St Bonaventure's and Sarah Bonnell schools will be refurbished. Work will commence at Lister, Brampton Manor and Sarah Bonnell schools in the next four months.

Dangerous dog left tied to drainpipe leads to prosecution

Stephen Iwuchukwu of Manor Park was found guilty of owning a Pit Bull type dog and leaving it unmuzzled and unattended in a public place after a friend left it tied to a drainpipe.

He was given a 12 month conditional discharge plus £115 costs and a destruction order on the dog at Stratford Magistrates' Court.

Information about dangerous dogs can be reported to the animal welfare service on 020 8586 9739.

Stubbing out indoor smoke

Forty residents have been awarded certificates to celebrate their pledge not to smoke in the home. Last October Newham Healthworks launched a Smoke-Free Homes and Cars Campaign which has seen more than 200 people sign up to the pledge.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of second-hand smoke and encourages people not to smoke in their homes and cars, to reduce the exposure of non-smokers, particularly children, to second-hand smoke.

Councillor Andrew Baikie, executive member for housing, process and business efficiency, attended the event with Mayor Sir Robin Wales after making a pledge to go smokefree in his home. Sir Robin said: "I encourage all smokers to make the pledge, not only for their own benefit but for the sake of the people they live with. I congratulate those people, including Councillor Baikie, who are leading by example and are committed to no longer smoking in the home because second-hand smoke is a killer."

Children exposed to second-hand smoke are at a much higher risk of cot death, have increased risk of meningitis and have more chance of getting glue ear, which can lead to partial deafness. Breathing in second-hand smoke dramatically increases the risk of lung cancer and heart disease by up to 25 per cent.

Anyone who wants to pledge to make their home or car smokefree can contact Newham HealthWorks on 020 8430 4410 or e-mail healthworks@newham.gov.uk



Sir Robin (centre) with residents

New Gujarati reading group comes to Green Street Library

The council is launching a Gujarati reading group on Thursday 24 April from 2pm to 4pm at Green Street Library, Upton Park, where literature fans will have the chance to meet Vipool Kalyani from the Gujarati Sahitya Academy of London and other literary figures. The group will meet on the last Thursday of each month and aims to add to the success of Urdu and Tamil reading groups already held regularly at The Gate and East Ham libraries.

Everyone is welcome to join but participants must be able to speak Gujarati so they can read and discuss literature, newspapers and magazines in the language.

Councillor Jo Corbett, executive member for culture said: "The group is a wonderful opportunity for residents to get together and enjoy the facilities of the library. It encourages people to engage in reading and discussion."

For more information contact Anjali Das on 020 8430 3650.

Newham lone parents to get £3,000 boost

Single parents in Newham are to be given advice on how they can tap into an extra £3,000 a year when they return to work, as part of a new Government scheme. This will be available to those who have been claiming Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance for at least 12 months and have returned to work for at least 16 hours per week.

Lone parents in Newham can get personalised support through Working Links, an organisation that has helped more than 660 residents back into sustainable employment since 2004.

The 'In-Work Credit' payment is only one of the Government's plans to encourage lone parents to return to work. In October lone parents will see a change in the eligibility criteria for claiming Income Support too and the benefit system for lone parents will be transformed. Working Links can provide guidance through any changes.

For more information about Working Links call freephone 0800 917 9262 or visit www.workinglinks.co.uk

Mayor unveils centre for business start-ups in heart of Stratford 2012

Fledgling businesses will be given a major boost by new incubator units in central Stratford, on the doorstep of the 2012 development site.

Business Place, which is part-funded by the council and run by the East London Small Business Centre (ELSBC), aims to benefit in particular start-up businesses launched by young people. It will provide low-cost office facilities and tailored business support and planning services, plus local networking opportunities. Units with short- and long-term leases are available.

Stephen Osakwe, a young resident who is setting up an internet radio station called Virtuoso Live with help from the centre, said: "The support I've had from ELSBC has been invaluable – I don't think I

would have made nearly as much progress without their efforts. I hope Business Place will give other young people the chance to turn their dreams into real success stories."

Mayor Sir Robin Wales attended the launch event and said: "I am delighted to be opening Business Place, which will help young

people benefit from some of the fantastic opportunities that are coming our way."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the services offered by Business Place can contact Pauline Barnett, Deputy Chief Executive at ELSBC, on 020 7456 0439 or paulineb@goeast.org



Resident Stephen Osakwe (seated) shows Sir Robin Wales, Cllr Ron Manley (l) and Cllr Freda Bourne (r) how business support has benefitted him

NEWS // IN PICTURES

Icy reception for spring
blooms, by local photographer
Marta Romanczuk.



NEWS // IN PICTURES

1 St John's Church, Stratford, illuminations as part of the artist in residence commissions. **2** Red Arrows fly over Newham to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RAF. **3** Little listeners: a visitor to Discover's City of Stories exhibition. **4** Students from Plashet School design costumes for the Torch Relay.





Mayor's view

with Sir Robin Wales

Torch relay a **blazing success**

Despite the poor weather and unseasonable snow, 20,000 people turned out on a cold Sunday to support the Olympic Torch Relay as it passed through Newham. As I walked around Stratford, I sensed a real community atmosphere which was great – it really reflected what the Olympics are about for us in Newham – unity and co-operation. I felt that Newham led the way with our diverse community coming together to celebrate an event which we will soon be hosting.

The council ensured there was a lot going on during the day including, activities for children, tea dances for our older residents and live performances for everyone to enjoy. There was also a wonderful carnival procession which more than 300 of Newham's young people took part in – I was amazed by all the effort that had gone in to making their fantastic costumes.

It was a great shame that some spectators missed out on seeing the torch pass through Meridian Square, especially as many had been waiting a while in the cold to secure a prime position. A last minute decision was made by the organisers to divert the route, something the

council had no control over.

I'm sure many of you will have seen the images of the protests from the day. I support people's right to protest and express their opposition to China's human rights abuses. Stratford was not the site of major protest, but a number of people used the opportunity to express their views and did so peacefully.

Once the 2008 Games are over, Beijing will hand the reigns over and all focus will be on us. I'm really excited that very soon we will be showcasing our borough to the world. With the regeneration, new development and a traditional warm East End welcome we'll have plenty to show them.

Being one of the few elected Mayors, I am directly accountable to you. It's important that I'm open and accessible for any Newham resident. To find out more visit my website at www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 8430 2107 to find out where I'll be.



Sir Robin samples the indoor athletics track at Stratford Shopping Centre



Step to it: Sir Robin at the tea dance



Young Mayor Zuhayb Ahmed scans plans for the Olympic Park



Cycling in Newham

More people in Newham are choosing to cycle. The Newham Cycle Training Programme in partnership with Bikeworks successfully completed a year of cycle training for Newham residents and will now be running for another year.

Many children received certificates and badges after completing the National Standard training.

A number of community events were held during the year. Over Easter, despite the snow and sleet, 16 people completed their training at events held in Central and Stratford Park. This included individuals new to riding and people wishing to build on riding with confidence. A further 23 people had their bike serviced under our doctor bike service checks.

If you live or work in Newham and wish to receive further information on cycle training please contact Hanna Ehlers on 020 7430 2705 or email hanna.ehlers@newham.gov.uk

Community events will be held in the summer to meet the demand of adult cycle training and give families the chance to learn together. Adult training courses will also begin in the summer.

Two events include:

Training and maintenance

19 July
Forest Gate Festival

A week of cycle activities

From 11 August
Langdon School



ROAD SAFETY in Newham

If you park your car illegally you could face a penalty charge notice or worse, the possibility of your vehicle being removed, impounded or even crushed.

Councils have the authority to remove and impound illegally parked vehicles that obstruct the public highway and often cause problems for other road users and pedestrians. These vehicles are lifted and transported to the pound in Folkestone Road, East Ham. There is a clearly defined removal criteria but common removals involve vehicles obstructing a dropped kerb or parked in disabled bays while not displaying a blue badge.

Before a vehicle is removed a penalty charge notice (PCN) is served and in some cases there is a 30-minute waiting period to allow the owner to return. However if the vehicle is causing an obstruction it can be removed immediately.

After the vehicle is lifted and transported to the pound the owner must pay the PCN, removal fee and storage fees, which can amount to anything over £100. Unclaimed

vehicles await a crushing fate at the disposal facility in Edmonton. Taxed vehicles are kept for up to three months and, if unclaimed, are turned into scrap metal.

Executive member for public realm, Councillor June Leitch, visited the disposal facility to witness the process involved in turning a car from a necessary convenience to a metal building block. Councillor Leitch said: "Keeping traffic flowing and making sure pedestrians can safely use our roads is of paramount importance. Restrictions are there for a reason. Break these rules and you could be landed with a hefty penalty. If you park illegally and obstruct the highway your vehicle could have a similar fate to those at Edmonton."

Vehicle removals are reported to TRACE, a scheme which gathers information on vehicles lifted across London.

Before a vehicle is crushed it is stripped of all recyclable components and potential pollutants, which includes tyres, fuel, and oil.

To report and abandoned or untaxed vehicle call freephone 0800 731 3300.



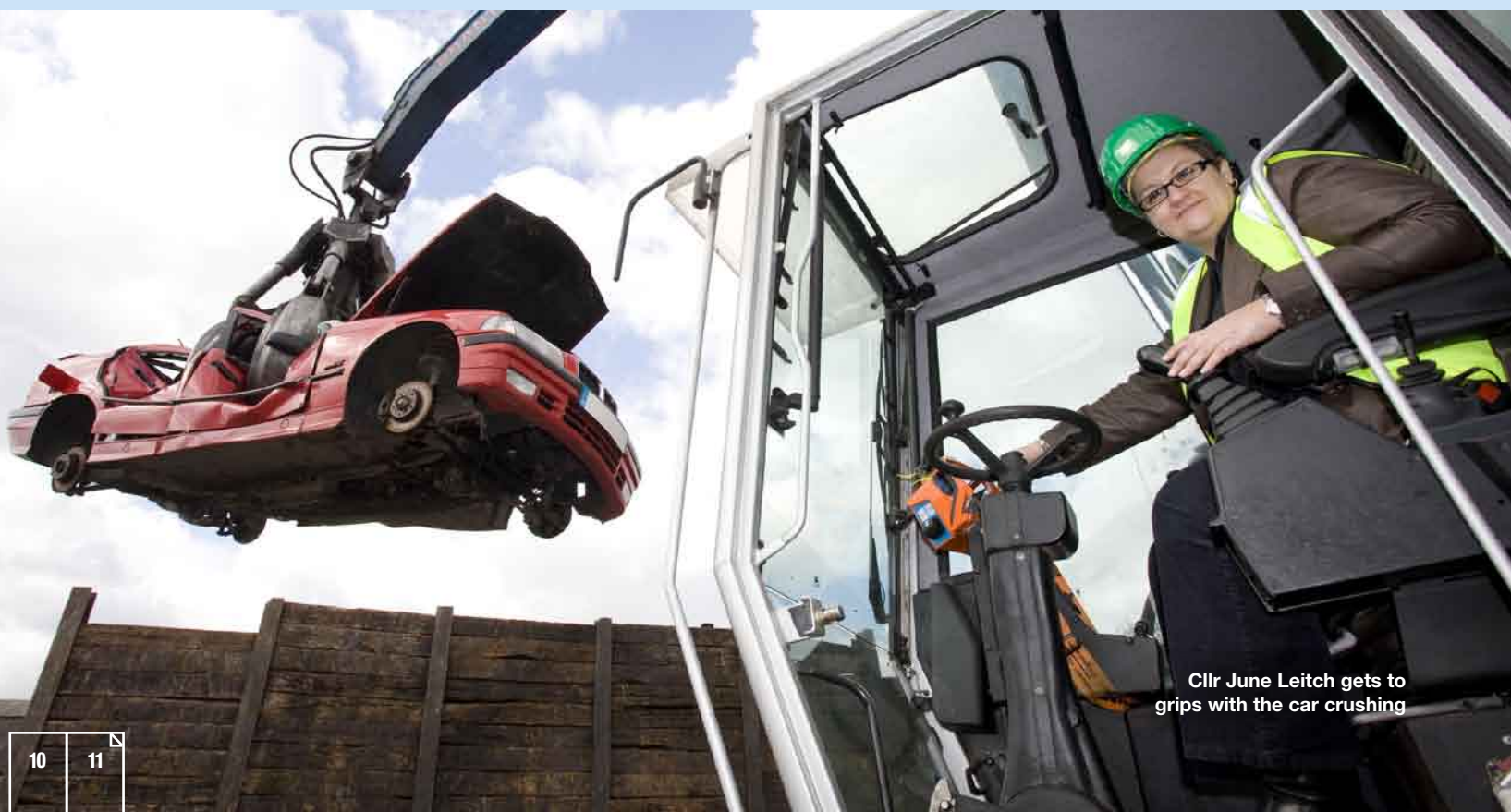
**Number crunching
April 2007 to March 2008**

Illegally parked unclaimed
vehicles crushed – **323**

Abandoned vehicles crushed – **601**

Untaxed vehicles crushed – **900**

CRUSHING WARNING TO DRIVERS



Cllr June Leitch gets to grips with the car crushing



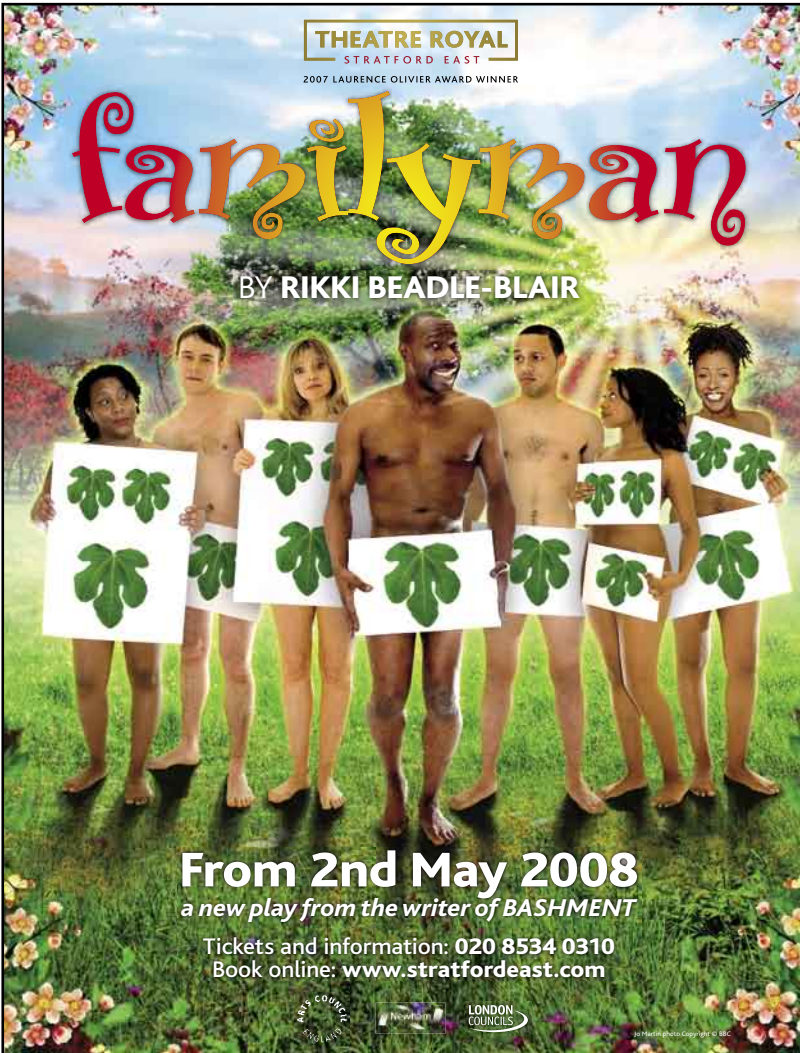
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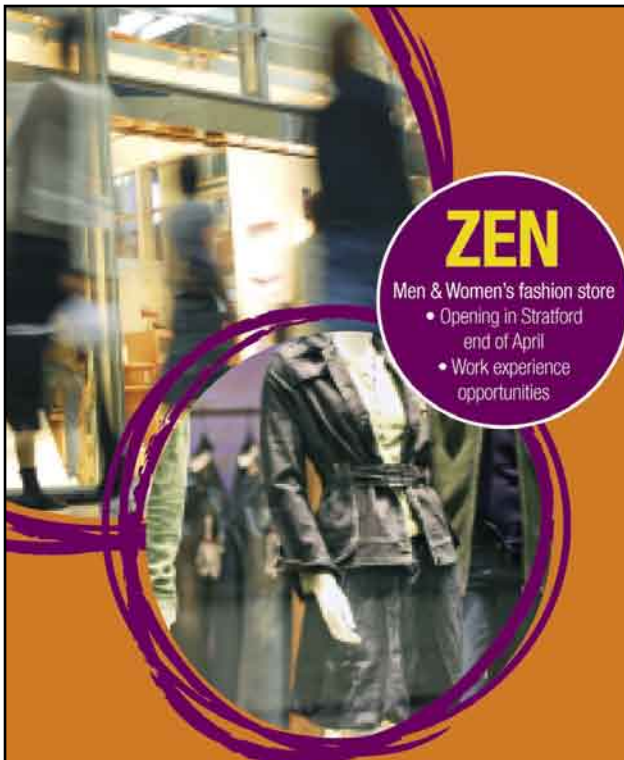
BY RIKKI BEADLE-BLAIR



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INFLUENTIAL COUNCILLORS IN ACTION

Last year Mayor Sir Robin Wales committed £500,000 to help fund more than 50 projects suggested by residents and spearheaded by councillors. Here we take a look back at some of the projects that have made real improvements to your borough.

SPORTS

Young people at the Upton Centre, Plaistow, were given table tennis and badminton equipment thanks to Plaistow councillors who made the purchase for the centre's youth club, which was launched last December. The club attracts around 50 young people to its sessions and the extra equipment means even more can get involved. Aijaz Sheikh, youth club co-ordinator at the centre said: "The equipment has really helped to get our youth club off the ground and given the young people something to get stuck into. We really appreciate the support and commitment that the Plaistow councillors have given us." Selwyn School and other after school clubs in Plaistow have also benefited from extra sports equipment.

PARKS

Parks in East Ham, Plaistow and Canning Town have been upgraded thanks to help from councillors in these areas. Brampton Park in East Ham has new multi-games rings and goal posts, whilst the Fisher Street Park in Canning Town has seen the playground resurfaced and tired play equipment replaced.

After Beckton residents in Oliver Gardens and Kirkham Road approached Councillor Pat Murphy commenting that trees were causing an obstruction he used the local fund to replace the trees with more suitable species.

ENVIRONMENT

Green Street councillors have been encouraging local school children to go green. Children have been designing posters to persuade people to act more responsibly towards their environment. Seven-year-old

Nabihah Rahman from Elmhurst Primary School designed the winning poster, which will now be published and displayed in locations across Green Street. Litter hot spots in Upton Park and Manor Park will receive metal bins, as will schools.

When Manor Park community forum councillors Pat Sheekey and Sukhdev Singh Marway visited the Hathaway Centre in Manor Park some people mentioned the problems that wheelchair bound visitors were having when trying to access the centre; the height of the kerb made it difficult for them to mount it. Within weeks the councillors ensured that two dropped kerbs were installed making the community centre fully accessible to all.

Fly-tipping is an eyesore. Fed up residents and businesses were annoyed that people were persistently dumping rubbish in Woodgrange Road, particularly in the entrance of the Union Rail vent, former site of the Ace of Clubs. Forest Gate councillors are working with Union Rail and housing association Local Space to gate, fence and secure the trouble spot and resolve the longstanding issue. Community lead councillor Kay Scoresby said: "I'm so pleased that we are able to improve this area as it has been an eyesore for a long time. Hopefully the new measures will help the tenants and businesses feel more secure. Residents who shop in Woodgrange Road will be relieved to know that the fly-tipping will be stopped."

There are 60 elected representatives that serve Newham's nine community forums. Each hold regular surgeries where you can speak to them about your concerns. If you have an idea to improve your area and the quality of life for you and your neighbours speak to your councillor; their contact details and surgery times can be found online at www.newham.gov.uk or by calling 020 8430 2000.



Councillor Lakmini Shah at East Ham's Brampton Park playground



(l-r) Councillors Jo Corbett, Sukhdev Singh Marway and Ayub Korom Ali inspect new street furniture





(l-r) Councillors Zulfikar Ali and Jonathan Knott test the new furniture at May Green Park, Plaistow



(l-r) Councillors Pat Holland, Clive Furness and Paul Schafer at Fisher Street Park, Canning Town



Nabihah Rahman, winner of the Green Street poster competition with Councillor Sharaf Mahmood



Councillor Kay Scoresby (second left) and Councillor Shama Ahmad with Forest Gate residents

Another year of putting patients first

How your voice is being heard at Newham University Hospital NHS Trust

This month the Patients First! project celebrate their third year of listening and responding to patients' needs. Since the launch of the project the Trust has received nearly 8,000 comments about their services, staff and the environment through the use of comment cards and feedback. As a result, a number of changes have been made directly in response to feedback from patients and visitors to the hospital. The comment cards give patients a voice about every aspect of the care they receive and the chance to tell the Trust how to make their



visit better or what would improve their stay. This allows

the Trust to be responsive to the needs of patients and hospital users and results in real improvements.

There can be a delay getting feedback from national hospital surveys, but comment cards, which are available in every ward and reception area, are collected on a weekly basis. Each

comment is read and passed to the appropriate department to be acted on. If the comment contains a compliment about a member of staff this is fed back to them and they are praised for their good work. If the comment is about how the Trust can make an improvement, wherever possible all suggestions are actioned.

You said... we did: chairs

Health Central, the Trust's outpatient department commented that patients with mobility problems found chairs in the area too low and suggested that higher chairs should be offered. New seating was provided at a range of heights, which immediately made the area more comfortable for anyone using it.

You said... we did: newspapers



The hospital shop in St Andrew's Wing now sells newspapers and magazines after a patient commented that there

wasn't anywhere to buy them onsite.

Sukhbir Dulai, Patients First Project Manager, said: "Thanks to Patients First! the Trust has made many changes that have improved the experience of patients; the more we listen the more we can improve. We receive an increasing number of positive comments about the quality of care, the environment and communication between our staff and our patients."

In the first year of the project less than half of the comments received were positive. In the second year this increased to 75 per cent. Now, after the third year, 80 per cent of the feedback is positive so the system is working.

Next time you are at the hospital make sure your voice is heard – fill in a comment card and let the Trust know what you think of your hospital experience.

Comments received at Newham General Hospital include:

Our family has been impressed by the manner and care provided by not only nursing staff but the domestic and housekeeping staff who excel in what they do by their positive attitude at all times.

East Ham Ward

All the staff are very good. Newham hospital is the only hospital I want to stay in. The food is good. Anything I tick in the menu is the one I got without trouble. **West Ham Ward**

Restored my faith in NHS. Amazing service and people. **Radiology Department.**

*I am specifically impressed by the telephone hospital appointment reminder and efficient service at Health Central main reception. **Health Central***

Wrought talent

Ask most people how they got into their field of work and you'll get a routine response: school careers advice, timely temporary placements, vocational courses... Not Alan Chadborn. Tutor of the popular Newham Community Education & Youth Service (Newceys) blacksmithing course in Forest Gate, Alan draws on years of expertise and a life-long love of working with metal that was rekindled by sheer necessity in rural Zambia.

He explains: "During the 1960s, when Zambia was struggling for independence, I was working there for a charity helping Zambian farmers. We needed to work with metal to repair ox carts but didn't have electricity for welding. Then when the ploughshares didn't arrive, we had to use what you might call Victorian techniques."

Blacksmithing is an ancient practice where metal is heated and worked to create

tools and other objects. Bringing the basic theory that Alan learned while studying agricultural engineering into play, he built a forge (fire) from what he could find and taught himself the skills needed to make the tools. He is modest about this mammoth feat: "It's like anything you're interested in, you just pick things up – and I'm still learning!" Alan has used his self-taught skills for good all over the world, most recently for



light the forge for two or three weeks!

"But most people want to make decorative things. We start with a simple candlestick and coat hanger, which teaches a range of different techniques, then encourage students to choose what they want to do and teach them the relevant skills."

And you don't have to be big and beefy to take part; several students are

"It is the chance to explore a new area of creativity which gives students confidence in other areas of life"

female and the workshop has a wide range of differently-sized tools. Alan says: "We work closely with each student on exactly what they want from the course, but what every student gets from it is the chance to explore a new area of creativity which gives them confidence in other areas of life – because if you can pick up blacksmithing, you can pick up anything!"

Ever inventive Alan is working on building a gate to lock equipment in a separate arch. All that's needed to finish the job is some old hoardings, similar to those on scaffolding – if you have any to spare, please contact the Forest Gate Learning Zone on 020 8257 4680. They would be much appreciated!

If you're interested in blacksmithing or any Newceys course, April classes start this week, so strike while the iron's hot! If you're in receipt of certain benefits many courses are free, call your local centre for more information: North East Area Office (Little Ilford, Manor Park & Green Street) 020 8522 5770; North West Area Office (Forest Gate & Stratford) 020 8257 4680; South East Area Office (Beckton, East Ham & North Woolwich) 020 8430 4041 and South West Area Office (Canning Town, Plaistow & Custom House) 0208 257 4070. Visit www.newham.gov.uk for more details.

an 11-year spell in Uganda.

But if Newham residents are struck by a passion for blacksmithing, they don't need to put in all of Alan's hard labour. He has helped build three forges at the base in Forest Gate and has knowledge to impart to students of any ability. The Newceys course is the only one in the capital that is council-run and hence affordable: ten weeks of lessons cost just

£45 plus a £30 charge for materials.

It's a course with a real difference too, as Alan is relaxed about the direction his students take. "People are looking for various things from the course. Some people want to make art, some tools. One student at the moment is very keen on survivalism and wanted to make a striker to start cooking fires. We learned the skills together, made one and then used it to

To protect belongings and possessions from loss or damage many of us take out insurance; Newham police are reminding residents that honesty is the best policy when it comes to making a claim – keeping your fingers crossed doesn't mean you can exaggerate details and get away with it.

The Association of British Insurers say that one in 11 insurance claims is false. In Newham since January there have been 18 prosecutions as a result of false robbery allegations by the public. Officers in Newham's robbery team have received additional training on how to detect these bogus claims.

Detective Inspector John Cushion said: "Insurance is there as a safeguard but is exploited by opportunists who use it as a means to cover their backs or cash in when they want a new item. Some may see making false insurance claims as acceptable crime without victims but we all suffer with inflated premiums to

accommodate these deceptions."

Rumbled exaggerated claims include a 21-year-old Manor Park garage worker who said he had been held up by an armed team who stole a car from the garage forecourt. In fact he was trying to cover up the theft of a car, which was stolen after he left it unattended with the keys in the ignition.

Response units were sent to Stratford after a 24-year-old member of the Territorial Army from Manor Park called police claiming to have been threatened with a sawn-off shot gun and robbed. Under questioning he later admitted he had lost his Army pass when he was drunk and hatched the story to prevent problems with his employers.

Mobile phone theft claims are more common. Recently a man reported that he had been forced against a wall by a group of youths who stole his mobile phone. Investigations revealed he just wanted a crime reference number from

the police to obtain a new phone from his insurer after he got away with a similar false claim in the past.

Mr Cushion added: "Motives for some of the claims we have investigated vary from attention seeking to defrauding insurance companies – what they all have in common is that if you make a false claim you're breaking the law and will be prosecuted."

If you're a victim of theft it is important to come forward at the earliest opportunity in order for the police to have the best chance of detecting the offence, recovering your property and bringing those responsible to justice.

What are you looking at?

If you make a fraudulent insurance claim you could face a custodial sentence or at the very least a criminal record.

COSTLY CLAIMS

NEWHAM POLICE GET TOUGH ON FRAUDSTERS





ST GEORGE'S DAY

In England and arguably even more so in Newham, we pride ourselves on welcoming influences from abroad. Take a walk down any of the borough's high streets and you're likely to see a dazzling variety of produce from countries as far flung as Lithuania and India, Ghana and Dominica, happily nestling in together.

It's hardly surprising then that England's patron saint, St George, is said to have been born to a Turkish father and an Israeli mother, died in Palestine and probably never set foot in England at all! Despite this, he was taken in to the hearts of the English for his honour and bravery.

A HERO IN THE MAKING

Legend has it that George was born in the late third century to a Christian family. He rose quickly through the military ranks and served as a member of Roman Emperor

Diocletian's personal guard. When, on 23 April 303AD, the emperor ordered the persecution of Christians, George refused to carry the order out and was executed.

Hundreds of years later, during the Crusades, the story of George's sacrifice became legend among the soldiers and he swiftly became a martyr to the Christian cause, becoming England's patron saint during the 14th century.

DEBUNKING THE DRAGON

St George's legend involves his slaying a dragon. The most common version tells of a princess being offered in sacrifice. George rode into town, slayed the dragon and saved the princess. Whether you believe in dragons or not, the slaying is said to have taken place in the 12th century, long after George's death, so probably cannot be attributed to him!

CELEBRATING ST GEORGE'S DAY

Despite a slump in popularity since the 18th century, St George's day is gaining more recognition, with campaigns to make 23 April a public holiday. Aside from hanging out the St George's flag, there aren't many strict ways to celebrate the national day, so party in whatever way you like: raise a cup of tea, have some fish and chips or, if you're feeling really energetic, put on your bells and get morris dancing!

The St George's flag will be raised at Newham Town Hall, East Ham on 23 April at 11am. Join Brick Lane Music Hall's Vince Hayes and DJ Barry Perry for a St George's Day tea dance from 6.30 to 9.30pm at Newham Town Hall, East Ham. £2 entry.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TORCH RELAY

More than 20,000 residents braved an unseasonably snowy Sunday for the Stratford leg of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Although the torch was due to arrive in late afternoon, the Stratford streets and shopping centre were buzzing all day long, with businesses in the centre reporting a massive 30 per cent increase in sales on the day. Events included the chance to try out sports, step out at a tea dance in the Old Town Hall or wander the market stalls offering information on council services and freebies.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) ran their Get Set roadshow in Stratford Shopping Centre, hosting information on the Games' legacy, the finals of a London-wide singing competition and even roping in willing shoppers into their dance workshops! The tent has toured London but nowhere matched Newham for numbers, with nearly 10,000 people

visiting on Sunday, testifying to the success of the day; the second highest footfall in the capital has been just 1,500.

As the torch made its way to Stratford, security was as tight as across the capital, but protestors were nonviolent and calmly integrated with the waiting crowds. The only hiccup to the day's events was a last-minute diversion to the route, meaning that those in Meridian Square missed the flame. Mayor Sir Robin Wales commented: "The Olympic flame is a symbol of unity and it was right that the Torch Relay

should have been celebrated. It was a shame, however, that some people missed out when relay organisers and the police made a late decision not to follow the original plan.

"It was compensated by the fantastic colourful carnival procession that more than 300 of our young people took part in. It showed Newham knows how to party and has grasped the true spirit of the Games." Tessa Sanderson CBE echoed the mayor's words, adding: "The fantastic turn out in Stratford and the welcome I had were heartwarming. Well done Newham."



(Top to bottom) Newham Mag stickers and fortune cookies raise smiles; a cheerful Newham volunteer hands out flags; Tessa Sanderson CBE greets the crowds



(Clockwise from top left) Theatre company Scarabeus defy gravity; Colegrave Primary School samba band bring some tropical heat to Meridian Square; Imagine, a tribute to The Beatles, entertain the revellers; crowds stay cheerful despite the cold

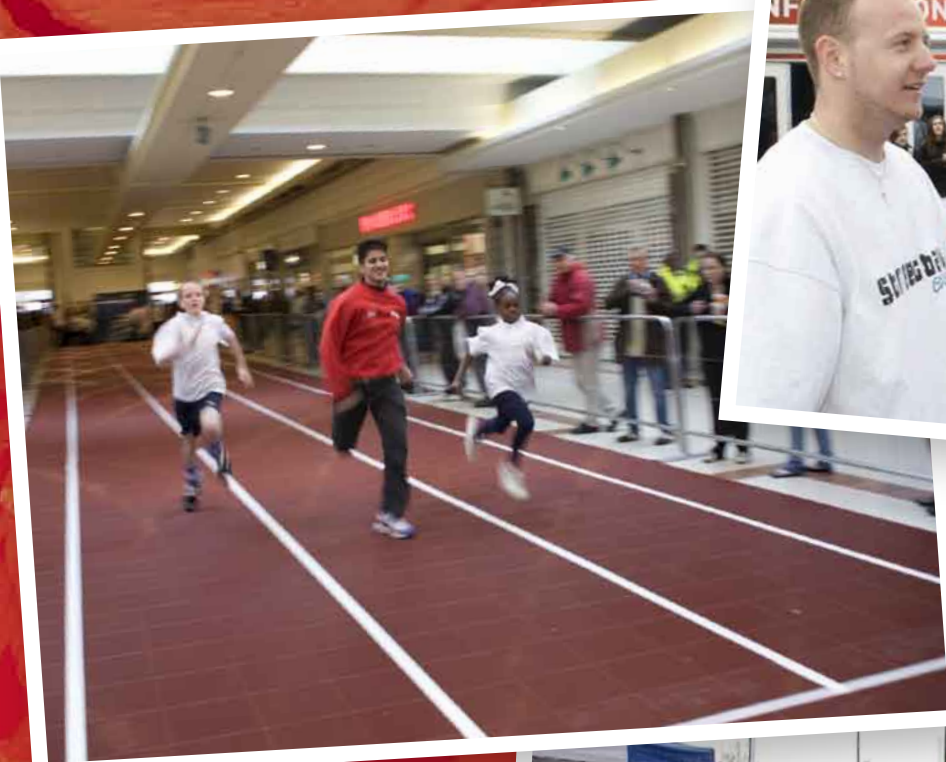


SPOTLIGHT ON THE TORCH RELAY



(Above) Carnival costumes are a flaming beauty
(Below, l-r) The Future Stratford exhibition gives a taste of good things to come; the Newham Recycled Orchestra raises the roof at Theatre Royal





(Top to bottom) Mayor Sir Robin Wales spins into action at the basketball practice in Meridian Square; Deputy Young Mayor Hamid Sheikh tries out the track in Stratford Shopping Centre; singing in the rain in Meridian Square; Chinese dancers thrill visitors at the Old Town Hall, Stratford



IN FOCUS

LEAPS AND BOUNDS ASPIRING OLYMPIANS MEET AN ALL TIME GREAT



Sir Robin and Sergey (back row)
with (l-r) Scott Gregory, Venita
Dabhi, Doja Atanda & Neha Dabhi

Young athletes from Newham Sports Academy met Olympic pole-vaulting legend Sergey Bubka during a recent visit to Stratford where he was quizzed on his long spanning sporting career.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales welcomed the Ukrainian athletics champion, who is still the reigning indoors and outdoor pole vault world record holder, to the viewing platform overlooking the Olympic Park, alongside fellow Olympian Tessa Sanderson CBE. Keen to share his expertises, Sergey said: "My life is sport and I am determined to use all my knowledge and experience to help change the world by helping the young people of today realise the benefits of sport."

Around 60 talented young people attend Newham Sports Academy and receive top class coaching in preparation for a shot at a place in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Tessa, who manages the Academy, said: "You cannot put money on how much a visit by someone the stature of Sergey is worth."

Sir Robin added: "We want the 2012 Games to inspire local people to follow their ambitions and strive for better things. The Academy is helping our young and talented sports people to reach their full potential in and beyond the sports arena and I am sure that they have been encouraged by Sergey's achievements."

Q&A WITH SERGEY

Scott Gregory: "Sometimes I find it hard to concentrate during my training. What did you do?"

Sergey: "Concentration is very important. Do your training repetitions, take a break, relax, refocus and start again. If you are relaxed and focused you will be ready for the next trial."

Neha Dabhi: "What did you focus on during your training, strength or technique?"

Sergey: "You have to combine everything. Strength and endurance is very important, but my event was also very technical. I prepared so that I was ready for everything."

Adedjoja Atanda: "How many years did you compete for your country?"

Sergey: "I competed for the Soviet Union and then for Ukraine following the political changes in my country. You should always be proud to represent your country. In 1983 when I won my first world championship, 70,000 people stood to celebrate my victory and my national anthem. That was the best feeling and that is what you should dream for."



Join hundreds of Newham residents, students and community groups to mark the beginning of the year's festivals at Mayfest 08, a free day of art and culture on Wednesday 7 May along the waterfront of the University of East London's (UEL) Docklands campus. The day's events are supported by the council and the European Social Fund.

The exciting programme runs from 12midday to 8pm and features free performances and fresh artistic productions, including art exhibitions, music, dance, poetry and theatrical performances, bringing together the work of professionals, students, school and community groups in a celebration of culture and creativity.

Highlights will include live music and dance performances by the borough's school, college and university students,



including the Newham Recycled Orchestra, an inspiring outfit using reclaimed objects as instruments, Newham's Solid Harmony Community Choir, the Barking Bateria Samba Band, UEL's own samba all-stars, and talented students from UEL's exciting new degree in Urban Dance.

Live theatre includes Ritual Exposure, performed by UEL students around campus, and Crossing Borders, a series of short original performances exploring

ways of fusing disciplines, each with startlingly different outcomes.

Mark O'Thomas, Director of UEL's Institute for Performing Arts Development, said: "Mayfest 08 will be better than ever, with more students, performances and community involvement than last year. We want to really establish the event on the cultural calendar, celebrating creativity in east London and beyond."

Mayfest 08 runs from 12midday to 8pm. The DLR Cyprus station is right on the doorstep of the Docklands campus. For further details, log on to www.uel.ac.uk/mayfest Admission is FREE and everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Mayfest 08:

Festival fun on the docks



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BECKTON

East London Gymnastics Club
Frobisher Road (Back of Asda)
TUESDAY'S 5.00 PM & 7.00 PM
Toni Tel: 0207 473 6089

EAST HAM

St Bartholomews Church Centre
292b Barking Road
TUESDAY'S 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Paula Tel: 01621 843335

LEYTONSTONE

Methodist Church Hall, Cann Hall Road
WEDNESDAY'S 5.30 PM & 7:00 PM
Debbie Tel 0208 558 6671

UPTON PARK

New Martin Hall, 25 Cloughton Road (off Boundary Road)
WEDNESDAY'S 7.00 PM
Betta Tel 07944 688737

STRATFORD

Atherton Leisure Centre
189 Romford Road
THURSDAYS 7PM
Tel Kelly
07770 850683

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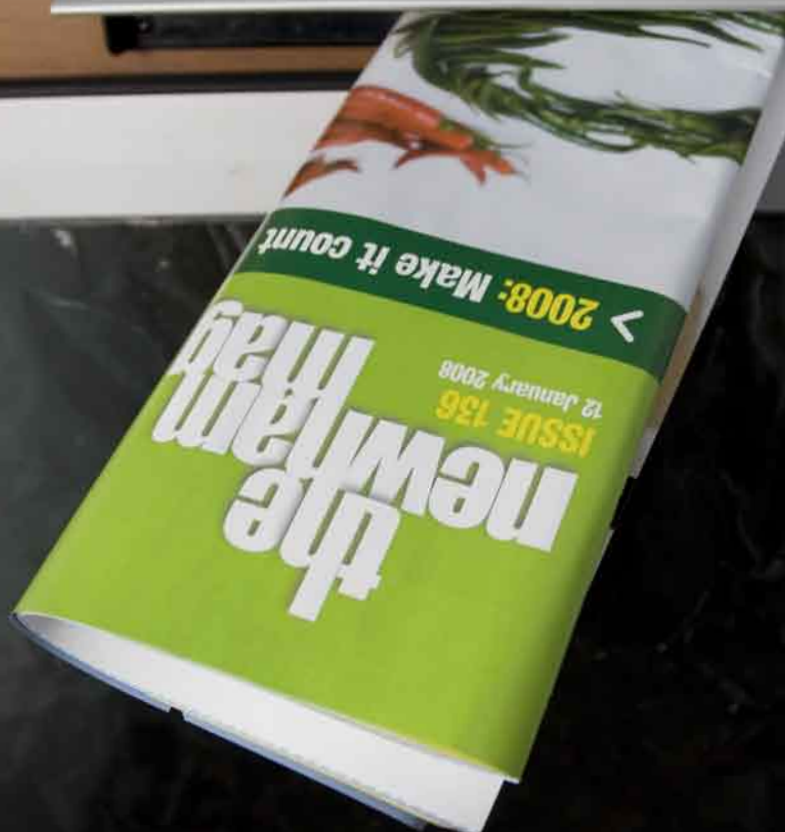
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London City Airport is hosting its 11th annual Art Awards this spring. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are the theme of the awards and artists are invited to design work that demonstrates what the Olympics coming to Newham means to them.

Any artist and photographer living within five miles of the airport is invited to enter the council-sponsored awards for the chance to have their work exhibited at this hive of exciting activity on the Royal Docks; captivate travellers setting off on dream holidays, delight businesspeople with a welcome distraction or unite residents in celebration of Newham staging the London event of the century. Richard Gooding OBE, chief executive of the airport, vouches for the success of the awards: "In previous years passengers have been so impressed with the entries that they have bought artwork and taken it with them on their flight!"

All entries will be viewed by a team of judges led by Mr Gooding, with the shortlisted selection to be exhibited to the

public at the airport. Winners have a chance to win a first prize of £500, second prize of £300 or third prize of £200.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales is a firm fan of the annual celebration of local talent, saying: "We have sponsored the Annual Art Awards for many years and are pleased to continue to offer our support. We have so much creative talent within our borough and the awards is a brilliant way to recognise this. The 2012 Games is the perfect opportunity for Newham to shine and I hope this is reflected in the art work submitted. I am really looking forward to seeing this year's entries."

Mr Gooding added his support for the awards, saying: "The Annual Art Awards finalists' exhibition will be displayed in the departure terminal and viewed by thousands of passing passengers from



Last year's winner, Sophie Drury from East Ham

around the world each week." You can see the exhibition from 12 May to 3 June.

The closing date for entries is Friday 2 May 2008. Entries should be hand-delivered to Linda Alexander at the airport. For further information contact 020 7646 0056.

Art at the airport



NEWHAM

>> IN FOCUS



Fun day feeling

Councillors David Griffin, Richard Crawford, Freda Bourne and Ron Manley play basketball



More than 1,300 people sampled life as an Olympian at the **STRATFORD** and **WEST HAM** sports fun day.

The free event, which was the final in a series of fun days hosted by the council, saw people have a go at different Olympic sports including football, volleyball, netball, hockey and trampolining.

Executive member for Olympic opportunities, Councillor Paul Brickell, said: "The fun days have been a great success with more than 7,200 Newham residents taking part. I'm very pleased that people of all ages and backgrounds have welcomed the chance to try something new and find out what's in store for 2012."

Stratford resident Tauseef Ahmed took her two sons to the event and said: "I liked that it was free and there was a variety of activities for all different ages. The information was good and I discovered more about what's available in Newham."

For more information about the 2012 Games in Newham visit www.newham.com/2012games

Tauseef Ahmed with (l-r) Haatem Ahmed (six), Yaquob Ahmad (four) and Aadam Ahmed (nine)



Newham Stroke Club

The next meeting of Newham Stroke Club will be held on 30 April at Katherine Road Community Centre, **EAST HAM** from 1 to 4.30pm. Discussion will be around home adaptations. Exercise and free refreshments included. For more information call June Smith on 020 8430 2486.

Young Mayor judges schoolchildren's life-changing ideas



Young Mayor Zuhayb and Frances Clarke with Godwin Junior School pupils Cato Tallis-Lock and Edward Prendeville

Young Mayor Zuhayb Ahmed joined the We Are What We Do judging panel to find the next set of world changing actions, as suggested by Newham schoolchildren.

The top 25 actions will then appear in a new book.

Zuhayb chose Take your Dad for a Walk as the best action. He said: "This helps you to be healthy while spending quality time together." The action was suggested by Cato Tallis-Lock, ten, and Edward Prendeville, nine, pupils from Godwin Junior School, **FOREST GATE**.

Frances Clarke from Newham We Are What We Do, said: "We were delighted by the response to our competition. The number and range of ideas is amazing."

We Are What We Do published Change the World for a Fiver, a book containing 50 social, health-related and environmental everyday actions that anyone can do.

For more information, visit www.wearewhatwedo.org or contact Frances Clarke by email: frances.clarke@community-links.org or telephone 020 7473 9642.

Schoolchildren plan for the future

Ranelagh Primary School, **STRATFORD**, held an event encouraging pupils to think about their future careers. Key Stage Two pupils (aged seven to 11) took part in My Future, an event funded by the council.



Over one afternoon, local professionals visited the school where children quizzed them about their jobs. There was a huge variety of professions represented, including a plumber, tiler, photographer, ballet dancer, accountant, fraud investigator, book binder, architect, beautician, music producer and dental hygienist.

Head teacher Angela Tapscott said: "At Ranelagh we believe it is important for children to have as much inspiration as possible in their formative years. Then if children work hard they can achieve their dreams."

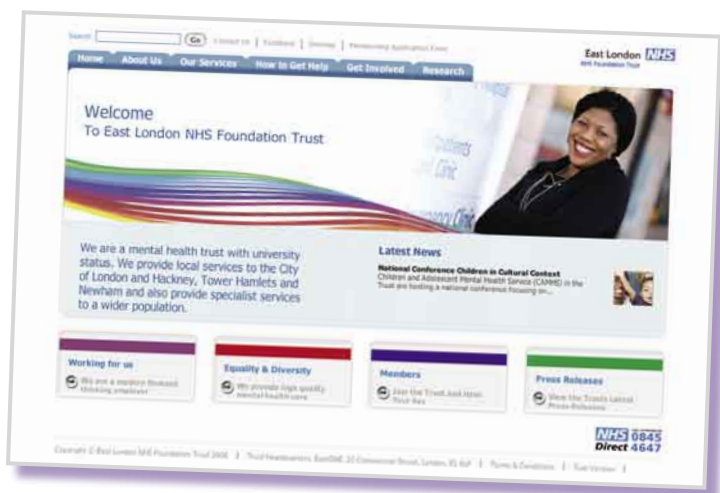
Team Newham wins gold at Panathlon Challenge

Newham's Panathlon team won the East London heats on 1 April, beating other boroughs including Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Redbridge. The Panathlon Challenge is an annual competition for disabled young people and those with special educational needs (SEN) across London. Pupils from Langdon, Lister, Forest Gate and Eastlea Schools were on the winning team and were presented with a trophy by Paralympic basketball star Ade Adepitan. They will now go on to represent East London in the London Finals in June.

For more info please visit: www.panathlon.com

Shakespeare brought to life at Sarah Bonnell School

Year nine pupils at Sarah Bonnell School in **STRATFORD** took a new look at their upcoming SATs (tests that school children sit at the end of each year) when MOPA Theatre Company paid a visit. The pupils, who are studying set texts for their SATs, took part in Shakespeare Workshops and revelled in the opportunity to get inside the characters and story as well as studying them on the page. The young people also got a taste of the organisational skills needed to put on a show when they got the chance to direct scenes and use technical equipment, including a sound rig. The aim of Much Ado About Nothing, as the Shakespeare Workshops were called, is that pupils will remember the stories and be enabled to achieve higher scores in their SATs this year.



New mental health website goes live

East London NHS Foundation Trust has launched a new website for residents needing help with mental health issues. The site will enable users to access information within a couple of clicks of the mouse and incorporates disability access functions for people who are sight impaired or have other access issues. Users will be signposted to statutory services, details of organisations that can provide information and support and advice on maintaining mental and physical wellbeing.

Visit the website at www.eastlondon.nhs.uk

ALL ABOARD FOR SALSA



Salsa away your Tuesday blues and meet spicy strangers aboard the Tereza Joanne, permanently moored in King George V dock, Silvertown. The boat has a beautiful open air deck, breathtaking views of London and a bar with pub prices. Latin Tuesdays welcome everyone and anyone, no matter your level of fitness or experience, and you can wear whatever you feel comfortable in. Salsa is a great way to keep fit in a way that's so fun you'll hardly notice you're exercising! Come along and see for yourself – the first session is free and if you don't want to dance, you can just watch. The hour-long classes are every Tuesday at 8pm for beginners and 9pm for improvers and intermediate level. After your first session, classes cost £5 for one class and £6 for two; concessions (students and Freedom pass-holders) pay £3 for one class and £4 for two. For more information call 020 7511 5000.



Newham's young achievers defy negative headlines with inspirational show



Melissa Elliston has a break from dancing to give a speech

More than 200 Newham teenagers, many from offending and disaffected backgrounds, have dispelled the frequently negative portrayal of young people as violent troublemakers by embracing the groundbreaking Government-backed Learning Agreement and Activity Agreement pilots. Among the talents displayed by

teenagers at the event in the city were outstanding singing by Letitia Oldham, electrifying dance and choreography from Melissa Elliston and frank and touching speeches by Martina Dickinson and Rachelle Cook, who talked about their own experiences and the personal challenges they overcame on a residential adventure programme.

Rosetta Art Centre in **STRATFORD** has been developing and supporting individuals in creative and artistic fields for over 12 years and offers a range of art education courses: ceramics, photography, textiles, fashion, costume design, watercolour painting, oil painting and drawing, suitable for all levels.

Now Newham businesses have the opportunity to display some of the artists' works for free. The Professional Development Group (PDG) is a group of resident artists who have spent many years developing their artistic skills and they are now offering a free commission to Newham businesses. Work will be exhibited for at least one month at business premises in order to promote the artists' work – and to make the business premises more beautiful!

If you would like any further information please contact Sanaz Amidi or Trisha McCauley on: 0207 511 1117 or email info@RosettaArts.org

Britannia Village gets a spruce up

Britannia Village in **SILVERTOWN** had a superb spring clean when more than 270 residents joined councillors for a day of action.

Residents helped with a litter-picking blitz where more than two tonnes of household rubbish and bulky goods were removed including armchairs, couches and car seats.

Twelve residents' gardens were weeded and planted with herbs, shrubs and flowers, as well as the flowerbed outside Britannia Village Primary School.

Jimmi Glowaki, ten, took part and said: "It was good. I took a plant home and my mum told me how to plant it in our garden. People tidied up bushes and rubbish and now everything looks better and cleaner."

Deputy mayor Councillor Christine Bowden took part in the event with Councillor Tony McAlmont and community lead councillor for Royal Docks Patrick Murphy.

Councillor Murphy said: "There was great enthusiasm from residents and excellent progress made with tidying up the area. Everyone can feel very proud of their achievements."



Community lead councillor for Royal Docks Patrick Murphy and deputy mayor Christine Bowden help (l-r) Elen Miles, Harriet Baker and Julia Taylor with some planting

COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR



Newham residents can now benefit from the Community Coach of the Year, as Miriam Pupalova, Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme (LOCSP) Development Officer, scooped the award, beating 350 hopefuls and three finalists to the honour.

Miriam has been working hard to develop Handball in east London, working closely with the council to develop players and coaches

in schools as well as a team to represent the borough in future tournaments.

"When my name was called out my sister and I jumped up and screamed," explained Miriam. "I want to say a big thank you to Newham Council and Leyton Orient as well as all the people who trusted and believed in me all the way through my work, because without their help I wouldn't be able to develop Handball the way it is now."

For more information, please contact LOCSP on 020 8556 5973 or email enquiries@locsp.org

Children with special needs welcomed at Stratford Picture House

Stratford Picture House is offering one film per month at their Saturday morning Kids Club that is autism-friendly. Everyone is welcome at the screenings but children with autism or other special needs and their family or friends are particularly welcome.

Sensitivities to sound and light make the cinema uncomfortable for some people with autism or other disabilities. They may also disturb other cinemagoers by making noise or needing to go out for a break. In autism-friendly screenings the soundtrack is reduced and low lights are left on in the auditorium, while children are allowed to make noise and move around if they want to.

Autism Friendly Kids Club screenings take place at Stratford Picturehouse on the first Saturday of each month at 11am. The next film will be The Princes Quest on Saturday 3 May – visit this link for details: www.theprincesquest.com. Tickets are £2 for children; accompanying adults go free. For more information contact Alice Warren on 020 7326 2611.



Newham resident runs for the MS Trust

Primary school teacher Sophia Tolfree from **FOREST GATE** ran the Flora London Marathon, raising a whopping £932 so far for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust. Sophia trained at Atherton Leisure Centre, Romford Road, to build her fitness for the 26.2 mile race. She said: "My mother was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis last year. There is no cure for this disease but kind donations can go towards research to hopefully find a cure soon. I would really appreciate it if you could sponsor me for this event by visiting www.justgiving.com/sophiatolfree – you can still sponsor me right up until June."



Sports quiz night a right success



Community lead councillor for East Ham, Lakmini Shah, and Plaistow, Zulfikar Ali, congratulate East Ham's First Ladies team for participating in the quiz night

Fans of sports trivia tested their knowledge in a free Olympic inspired quiz hosted by Newham's community forums.

The event saw 80 residents represent their forum area and answer questions about past Olympic and Paralympic Games, the London 2012 Games, general knowledge and health.

The winning group was Team Draper from **CUSTOM HOUSE AND CANNING TOWN**, with **EAST HAM**'s East Hammers taking silver and **PLAISTOW** One scooping bronze.

Katie Blake was a member of East Ham's First Ladies team which included several members of the Newham Deaf Club. She said: "The event was well organised – they'd taken into account our needs and everyone felt they could fully participate. It was a fun way of building our knowledge about the Olympics and finding out about opportunities to get involved."

Executive member for Olympic opportunities, Councillor Paul Brickell, said: "It was excellent to see people build up to the 2012 Games by taking part in this novel, fun event. There was a healthy dose of friendly rivalry between the forum areas."

Kids' corner



PLEASE SEND YOUR DRAWINGS,
JOKES AND POEMS TO:
**KIDS' CORNER, NEWHAM TOWN HALL,
EAST HAM E6 2RP**

Gallery



Martha Holme, 7



Soma Atif, 5



Madinah Mehmood, 8



Ali Kacar

Which one of the following countries is not in the grid?

Afghanistan

Australia

Bangladesh

China

India

Iraq

Japan

Mongolia

New Zealand

Pakistan

Singapore

Thailand

Turkey

Vietnam

Wordsearch

S	E	I	P	C	U	K	P	L	B	E	N	J
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Y	A	F	G	H	A	N	I	S	T	A	N	H

Solution

Missing country
- VIETNAM

Jokes

What do butterflies do?

Eat butter and fly.

What do penguins eat for lunch?

Icebergers.

What do sheep play with?

Baarbies.

by Abdul, 8

Two thirds of tenants quizzed as part of the Tenants Satisfaction Survey have given the council the thumbs up for the quality of the housing services it provides.

The results of the survey, which took place last year, showed that more than two thirds of the people questioned said they were very or fairly satisfied with the council as a landlord.

“68 per cent said they were satisfied with the overall housing service”

Of those who responded, 68 per cent said they were satisfied with the overall housing service. And 66 per cent said they were very or fairly satisfied with their accommodation; 65 per cent thought their rent was good value for money.

Questions in the survey covered getting repairs done, caretaking and concierge and how well tenants are kept informed.

“65 per cent thought their rent was good value for money”

Sixty-six per cent expressed satisfaction with the repair service, while 81 per cent said the speed with which work was completed was very or fairly good. The top score was reserved for the attitude of the workers, which 88 per cent of people said was good.

“88 per cent said the attitude of the workers was good”

Satisfaction with concierge and portering was 71 per cent; satisfaction with caretaking

and cleaning was 61 per cent. Seventy per cent of those who responded said the council is good or fairly good at keeping them informed and 76 per cent thought their views are taken into account.

Councillor Andrew Baikie, Newham’s cabinet member for housing, said: “This survey helps us to better shape services towards people’s needs in the future which is why the views of our tenants are important.

“It is very encouraging to see the majority are positive about the overall housing service provided by the council and Newham Homes and are satisfied with us as their landlord.

“The services we provide are meeting the needs of the majority of tenants and it is good to see that the efforts of our workers are appreciated.”

Some of the comments made by tenants in the survey included:

“I would rather live in my flat than Buckingham Palace.”

“I think the council has improved considerably; the service seems more efficient than it ever has been.”

“All is there to help if you need anything.”

“The staff and workmen are friendly and helpful.”

Tenants satisfied with **housing services**



WHAT'S ON?



19 APRIL – 3 MAY

ALL LIBRARY LISTINGS

LIBRARY ADDRESSES

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Canning Town Barking Road, E16 4HQ. 020 7476 2696
Custom House Prince Regent Lane, E16 3JJ. 020 7476 1565
East Ham High Street South, E6 6EL. 020 8430 3647
The Gate 4-20 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate E7 0QH. 020 8430 3838
Green Street 337-341 Green Street, E13 9AR. 020 8472 4101
Manor Park Romford Road, E12 5JY. 020 8430 2207
North Woolwich 5 Pier Parade, E16 2LJ. 020 8430 5900
Plaistow North Street, E13 9HL. 020 8472 0420
Stratford 3 The Grove, E15 1EL. 020 8430 6890
Archives and Local Studies: 020 8430 6881

UNDER 5s GROUPS

Storytelling – Stories, rhymes and crafts for children under five with their parents and carers.
Beckton Globe Every Friday 10-11am
Canning Town Every Monday 10.30-11.30am

Custom House Every Tuesday 10.15-11.15am
East Ham Every Wednesday 2-3pm
The Gate Every Friday 11am-12noon
Green Street Every Thursday 10.30-11.30am
Manor Park Every Thursday 10.30-11.30am
North Woolwich Every Thursday 2-3pm
Plaistow Every Tuesday 11am-12noon
Stratford Every Tuesday 11am-12noon and every Friday 2-3pm
Evening Storytelling – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Thursday 24 April 6-7pm
Sunday Storytelling – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Sunday 20 April 2-3pm
Little Readers – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Every Wednesday 1.30-2.30pm
Crafts Club – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Manor Park Every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am
Crafts & Computer Club – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Stratford Every Monday 10.30-11.30am
Toy Library – Open to

children under five with their parents and carers.

Beckton Globe Every Monday 10am-12noon and every Thursday 1-3pm
East Ham Every Tuesday 10am-12noon and every Thursday 10am-12noon
Messy Play – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
Beckton Tuesdays during school term 1.30-2.30pm
Imaginative Play – Open to children under five with their parents and carers.
East Ham Every Friday 10.30-11.30am

ADULT READING

Adult Reading Group – Explore the pleasure of reading in a friendly environment.
East Ham Monday 21 April 6.15-7.45pm
Plaistow Thursday 1 May 6.45-7.45pm
The Gate Tuesday 8 April 5.30-7.30pm

OTHER GROUPS

Over 50s Club – Enjoy a range of activities for the over 50s.
Beckton Globe Every Tuesday 9.45-11.45am
Writers Group
The Gate Tuesday 29 April 5.30-7.45pm

YOUNG PEOPLE

Homework Club – Homework support and advice for young people aged seven to 14. School term only.
Beckton Every Tuesday 4-6pm
Canning Town Every Saturday 10am-12noon
Custom House Every Saturday 10am-12noon
East Ham Every Monday 4-6pm
The Gate Every Thursday 4-6pm
Green Street Every Tuesday 4-6pm
Manor Park Every Saturday 10am-12noon
North Woolwich Every Thursday 3.30-5.30pm
Plaistow Every Thursday 4-6pm
Stratford Every Monday 4-6pm
Children's Games Club – Board games and activities for children aged five to 12.
Canning Town Thursday 24 April 4-6pm
Games Club – PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged eight to 13.
Custom House Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm
East Ham Every Tuesday 3.30-5.30pm

LIVE
LIFE



Manor Park Every Thursday 4-6pm
Teenage Games Club – PS2 and Xbox games, music, board games and many more activities for young people aged 12 to 16.

Beckton Globe Every Monday and Wednesday 3-5pm

Children's Reading Group – Explore the pleasure of reading in a family-friendly environment.

Canning Town Thursday 1 May 4.30-5.30pm

Teen Xtra Evenings – Free activities for young people aged 12 to 21.

The Gate Every Friday 6-8pm

ALL SPORTS LISTINGS

ESTATE BASED SPORTS

Sessions are open to 12-18 year-olds unless otherwise stated and are for all abilities. Sessions are FREE. For more information call 020 8430 2484 or visit www.newham.com/2012Games

Athletics

Every Friday
 4.30-6pm, eight-19 years
 Drapers Field

Basketball

For ages eight-19 unless otherwise stated.

Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme (LOCSP)

Every Monday
 4.30-6.30pm
 Winsor Park

Every Monday 7-9pm
 Froud Community Centre

Every Tuesday
 5-7pm

Royal Victoria Gardens

Every Tuesday
 7.30-9pm

Plaistow Park

Every Wednesday
 5-7pm

Memorial Park

Every Wednesday
 5-6.30pm

New Beckton Park

Every Thursday

4.30-6.30pm

Priory Park

Every Thursday

5.30-7.30pm

Barking Road Rec

Every Friday

5-6.45pm

Forest Gate Youth Centre

Every Friday

5-7pm

Lister Gardens Park

Newham All Stars Sports Academy (NASSA)

Term time only. For more information please contact Natasha Hart on 020 8519 3961.

Every Tuesday

4.30-6pm, girls 11-16 years

Sarah Bonnell School

Every Thursday

6-8pm, 12-16 years

Cumberland Sports College

Every Friday

4.15-5.30pm, eight-11 years

5.30-7.30pm, 12-16 years

Cumberland Sports College

Every Saturday
 11am-1pm, eight-11 years
 Sarah Bonnell School

Youngbloods Basketball Club

For more information please contact Caroline Charles 07958 307657 or Steven on 07940 111175.

Every Tuesday

6-8pm, under-15s and under-14s

East Ham Leisure Centre

Every Tuesday

8-10pm, under-18

and under-16 boys

East Ham Leisure Centre

Every Tuesday

5.30-7.30pm, under-16s

and under-15s

Newham Leisure Centre

Every Thursday

6-8pm, under-15 boys

national league

Newham Leisure Centre

Every Saturday

1-3pm, under-13s and minis

East Ham Leisure Centre

Cricket

Every Thursday

5-7pm, eight-to-16 years

Newham Cricket Club

Langdon School

£1 per session

Every Tuesday

5.30-7pm, eight-to-19 years

Score Indoor Complex

Every Thursday

4.30-6pm, eight-to-19 years

Drapers Field

Football

Every Monday

6-8pm

Plaistow Park

Every Tuesday

5.30-7.30pm

Little Ilford Ball Cage

Every Tuesday

5-7pm

Stratford Park

Every Tuesday

5-7pm

Phoenix Cage

Every Wednesday

4.30-6.30pm

Royal Victoria Gardens

Every Wednesday

5-7pm, eight-to-19 years

Stratford Park

Every Wednesday

7.30-9.30pm, 16+ years

(£2 charge)

Score Complex

Every Thursday

5-7pm

Scud Park Ball Cage

Every Thursday

6-8pm

Forest Gate Youth Centre

Every Friday

4-5.30pm (term time only)

St John's Community Centre

Every Friday

6-8pm

Priory Park Ball Cage

Every Saturday

10-11.30am

six-to-12 years

(£3 charge)

Drapers Field

Every Saturday

2-4pm, six-to-14 years (£3

charge) Score Complex

Ascension Football Academy

For more information please contact Louise on 07841 749292.





Every Saturday
School years R-3:
9.30-10.30am
School years 4-7:
10.45-11.45 am
School years 8-11:
12noon-1.30pm
£2.50 per child per session
King George V Park

Estates Football and Basketball League

Every Monday
6-8pm, under-14s and under-17s
Score Complex Hard Court
Every Tuesday
5.30-7pm, under-12s
and under-14s
Drapers Field
Every Friday
6-8pm, under-14s and under-17s
Leyton Manor Park

Football and Basketball

Every Monday
4.30-6.30pm
Winsor Park
Every Wednesday 5-7pm
New Beckton Park Ball Cage
Every Wednesday
4.30-6.30pm
Ford Park
Every Wednesday
6-8pm
Plashet Park

Every Thursday
4.30-6.30pm
Priory Park Ball Cage
Every Thursday
5.30-7.30pm
Barking Road Rec
Every Friday
5-7pm
Lister Gardens Park
Every Friday
5-7pm
Canning Town MUGA

Multi-Sports

Every Monday
5-7pm, eight-to-19 years
Langthorne Park
Every Monday
5-7pm, eight-to-19 years
Alma Street MUGA
Every Tuesday
4-5pm
Carpenters and Docklands Centre (term time only)
Every Tuesday
5-7pm, eight-to-19 years
Stratford Park
Every Wednesday
4-5pm
Carpenters and Docklands Centre (term time only)
Every Wednesday
5-7pm, eight-19 years
The CAGE (Chatsworth Active Games Enclosure)

Every Wednesday
5-7pm
Stratford Park
Every Wednesday
4-6pm, 10-19 years
Cann Hall Park
Every Wednesday
5-7pm, eight-19 years
Major Road Ball Park
Every Thursday
5-7pm, eight-19 years
The CAGE

Stratford Table Tennis Club

Every Wednesday
6.30-9.30pm
Stratford Secondary School

Eastlea Handball Club

Every Thursday 4-5pm
11-18 years
Eastlea School
Every Thursday 5-6pm
four-11 years
Eastlea School

Stratford Handball Club

Every Monday 3.15-4.15pm
11-18 years
Stratford Secondary School
Mondays 4.30-5.30pm
four-11 years
Stratford Secondary School

Venue Addresses

Alma Street MUGA
Alma Street, Stratford E15
Barking Road Rec
Burgess Road, East Ham E6
The CAGE (Chatsworth Active Games Enclosure) Cruickshank Road, Stratford E15
Cann Hall Park
Off Cann Hall Road, E11
Canning Town MUGA
Corner of Freemasons Road and Sophia Road, E16

Carpenters and Docklands Centre
98 Gibbins Road, Stratford E15 2HU
Cumberland School Sports College
Oban Close, Plaistow E13 8SJ
Drapers Field
Temple Mills Lane, off Leyton High Road, E15
East Ham Leisure Centre
324 Barking Road, East Ham E6 2RT
Ford Park
Canning Town, E16
Forest Gate Youth Centre
Woodgrange Road, E7
Froud Centre
Toronto Avenue, Manor Park E12 5JF
Langthorne Park
Off Leytonstone High Road, E11
Leyton Manor Park
Off Capworth Street, Leyton E10
Lister Gardens Park
Corner of Upper Road and Florence Road, Plaistow E13
Little Ilford Ball Cage
Reynolds Avenue, Manor Park E12
Major Road Ball Cage
Major Road, Stratford E15
Memorial Park
Memorial Avenue, West Ham E15
New Beckton Park Ball Cage
Savage Gardens, Beckton E6
Newham Leisure Centre
281 Prince Regent Lane, Plaistow E13 8SD
Phoenix Cage
Milner Road, West Ham E13
Plaistow Park
Balaam Street, Plaistow E13
Plashet Park
Woodhouse Grove, East Ham E6
Priory Park Ball Cage
William Morley Close, Upton Park E13
Royal Victoria Gardens
Pier Road, North Woolwich E16





Sarah Bonnell School
Deanery Road,
Stratford E15 4LP
Score Complex
100 Oliver Road
Leyton E10 5JY
Scud Park Ball Cage
Tant Avenue,
Canning Town E16
Stratford Park
Densham Road,
Stratford E15
St John's Community Centre
Albert Road,
North Woolwich E16
Winsor Park
Warwall,
Beckton E6
020 7474 7244

ALL OTHER LISTINGS

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Inter-forum handball competitions

Why not have a go at handball? Get involved in the young people's competition for people age 8-11yrs and 12-15yrs or the adults' competition for 16yrs plus.

Handball heats in each community forum area from Monday 21 April to Friday 25 April. For the full event details see www.newham.gov.uk/topics/sports

Handball final – a fun event for all ages
Sunday 27 April, 1-5pm

Newham Leisure Centre, 281
Prince Regent Lane, Plaistow
E13 8SD

OTHER EVENTS

Stratford Circus

Hansel and Gretel

Saturday 26 April, 3pm

Hansel and Gretel's journey takes them from a house with empty cupboards and a mother who doesn't like children to a house made of sweets and someone who just loves children – on toast! Lyngo serve up a musical theatre treat with their own special recipe of performance, captivating songs and wonderful imagery.

For ages four years upwards
Tickets £4

Jeremy Hardy

Saturday 10 May, 8pm

Jeremy Hardy is one of the UK's foremost stand-up comedians, unafraid to mix his socialist politics into his performances. Star of Jeremy Hardy Speaks To The Nation on BBC Radio 4 and the critically acclaimed film Jeremy Hardy vs. the Israeli Army, he is a Perrier Award winner and in 2004 was nominated for a prestigious Sony Radio Award for Comedy.

Tickets £15/£12

The Saturday Club

Saturday 3 May, 7.30pm

Last season, The Saturday Club established itself as the umbrella for emerging writers and performers living and working in East London. This season it returns with another swiftly-paced variety night featuring spoken word, circus, comedy, hip hop, R 'n' B, dance, new circus and much more. See it, be part of it, support it!

Tickets £10/£8

Box Office and Bookings

Tickets must be booked in advance. Booking for these events is through the Stratford Circus box-office on 020 8279 1015 or through the website at www.stratford-circus.com

Stratford Circus

Theatre Square, Stratford, E15



USEFUL NUMBERS

020 8430 2000

Hundreds of services, just one number – for all council enquiries

For questions about councillor surgeries or to find out which ward you live in, call 020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk/yourcouncillor

Write to Mayor Sir Robin Wales at Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, East Ham E6 2RP or email mayor@newham.gov.uk

For information about Community Forums freephone 0800 519 4015 or email community.forums@newham.gov.uk

For information about the 2012 Games and how it will affect Newham, visit www.newham.com/2012Games

To report anti-social behaviour call Newham's 24-hour hotline on 0800 731 3300

To speak to the editor of The Newham Mag, call Anita Plaha on 020 8430 2000 or email newham.mag@newham.gov.uk





Drop in

...and we'll help you out

If you're thinking of giving up, why not pop down to one of our new 'Stop smoking' drop-in venues?

Get **free** friendly advice and support, plus access to nicotine replacement therapy (gum, patches etc).*

Don't miss out...drop in!

For further information call us now on **0800 0131673** or text **QUIT** to **60155****

St John's Church

Stratford Broadway
E15 1NG

Saturdays 10am-12pm**

Wednesdays 11:30am-1:30pm***

The Hartley Centre

267 Barking Road
E6 1LB

Saturdays 10am-12pm***

**Canning Town & Custom
House Regeneration
Project Office**

20 Freemasons Road
Custom House
E16 3NA

Saturdays 10am-12pm***

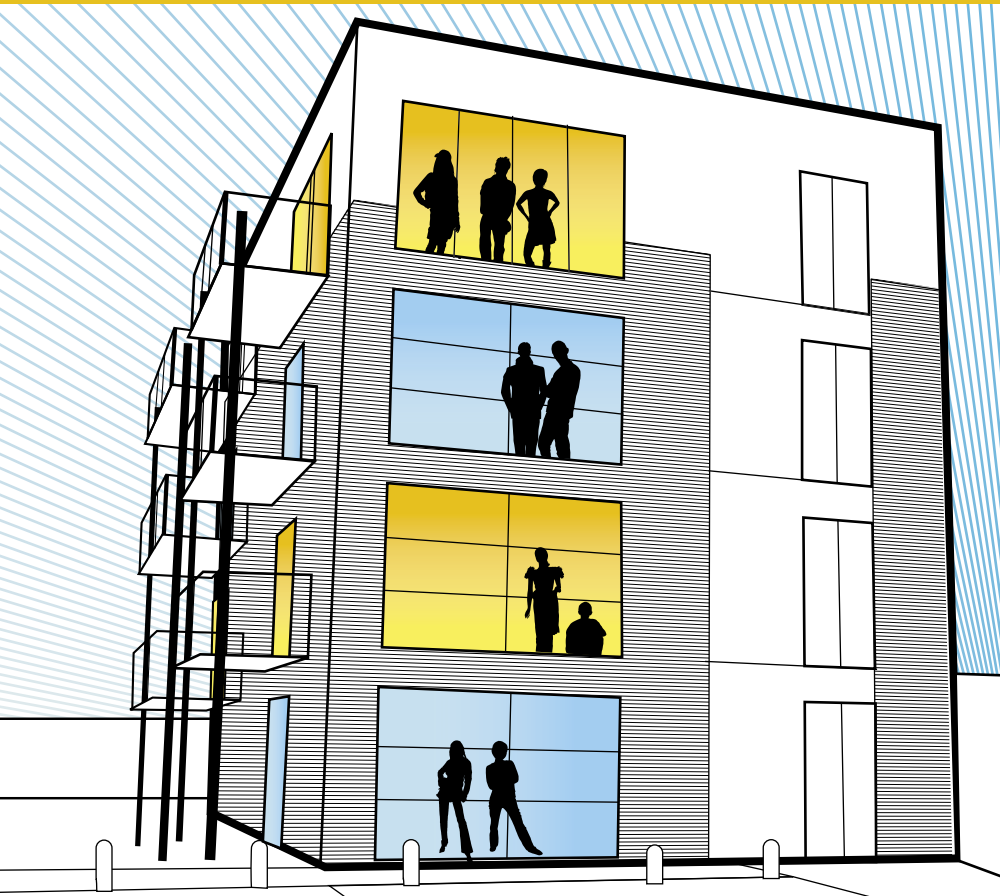
* One prescription charge per week will be collected for the first 4 weeks, then one prescription charge every 2 weeks will be collected thereafter. A maximum of 12 weeks NRT may be supplied. Continued supply of medications is subject to terms and conditions.

** Standard text rate applies.

*** Each venue will remain in operation every week until such a time that the service is no longer viable. Service provision will be reviewed by Newham Stop Smoking Service every 3 months and a decision made to continue with, or end the service in a designated area will be made at that stage. We will try to notify service users directly if a service ceases.

STRATFORD CENTRAL

12 Great Eastern Road, Stratford, E15 1BD



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www.genesishomes.org.uk

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*This is based on a 25% share of a two bedroom apartment with a full market value of £320,000. A subsidised rent is payable on the remainder of the equity. Minimum annual income requirements before tax and other deductions start at £31,215. Prices correct at time of going to print, and may be subject to revaluation. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU FAIL TO KEEP UP WITH REPAYMENTS. Applicants should be living or working within the east London sub-region (Tower Hamlets to Havering).